

Korea test threatens nuclear instability

North Korea's nuclear test has drawn widespread condemnation and is expected to result in swift UN action. The longer term consequences, however, are dependent on six key players

CHINA

Has condemned its ally but may be reluctant to stop flow of aid and energy for fear of undermining status quo

Missile bases

P'unggye-yok test site

RUSSIA

Calling for return to six-party talks. May back sanctions despite fears they could force DPRK into selling technology

NORTH KOREA (DPRK)

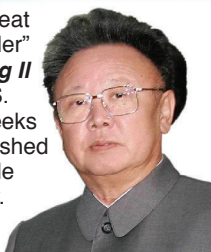
Pyongyang

Demilitarized zone

"Great Leader"

Kim Jong Il

fears U.S. invasion and seeks aid for impoverished and fragile economy. Believes bomb is



deterrent against "regime change" and lever to win bilateral talks with U.S.

DPRK military personnel
1.17m
(70% along border)

SOUTH KOREA

Military: 690,000.

Setback for President **Roh Moo-hyun's** "sunshine policy" towards North.



Seoul

Command Post Tango

Osan Air Base

Chinhae Navy Base
U.S. Navy Command Centre

Roh's self-sufficient defence policy – joint U.S.-Korean **Combined Forces Command** is to be dismantled by 2012 – could lead to Asian arms race in bid to counter DPRK

U.S. ★ U.S. bases

Military: 29,000.

President Bush refuses bilateral talks with North.

Keen for harsh UN sanctions – which would also set precedent for dealing with Iran



JAPAN

New Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe** backs changes in constitution to allow "expeditionary"

military action. Could seek own nuclear arsenal or carry out pre-emptive strike

